

Message From The Pastor

February 18, 2021

If you get too close, you'll get bitten!

John and I attended Public School #7 in the Stony Road section of Paterson. Since we were in the same grade and had the same schedule, we walked together to school. And, sometimes, back home from school, we would walk together.

On many afternoons returning from school, John and I would walk pass a house with a large backyard. Between the sidewalk and the backyard, was a chain linked fence. On the other side of the fence was a ferocious dog. The dog was very mean. I don't recall the name of the dog. I just remember the dog was very mean.

One afternoon, John decided to tease the dog as it viciously barked at us. I warned him, "Man, don't get too close to that fence, you'll be that dog's lunch." And, then, "John, you're crazy... keep your arms away from the top of the fence." John did not heed my warning that afternoon. He stood too close to the fence and his arm was way too far over it! The dog lunged at John. I turned my head. I could not watch. This is going to be ugly, I quickly said to myself.

Well, John quickly pulled his arm from the wrong side of the fence. But, it was exceedingly late. The dog bit into his jacket and ripped off a significant piece of the underarm section. Remarkably, his arm was intact, without injury. What about the dog? It ran off happily with the piece of the underarm section of John's jacket to put into his trophy case, next to his dog house.

I share the aforementioned story for personal reflection. It is "food for your soul."

We know what is dangerous for our soul. Each of us is aware that some actions and words are hurtful to others, leading us to fall out of the state of God's grace. Consequently, don't experiment by venturing too close to the "fence" provided by your good, prudent conscience that keeps you from sin. Otherwise, you'll be "bitten" by "the dog" we call Satan, a vicious, mean spiritual being, desirous of our soul! You don't want to end up in his "trophy case" for all eternity, do you?

Peace
Fr. Marc